Draft Traditional Assessment

SLO # 1 Identify and produce common English stress patterns in sentences using digital recordings measured through SLO rubric.

* Default Stress Pattern of Stressed Final Content Word
* Change in Default Stress Pattern Due to:
  + Highlighting of New Information
  + Returning a Question
  + Showing Contrast
  + Responding to a Question
  + Emphasizing Agreement
  + Showing Disagreement

Question 1

Listen to the recorded sentence and tell if the stress pattern is used correctly or not.



1. Correct
2. Incorrect

Incorrect stress pattern-Yes! You are right! The default stress pattern in English places the greatest stress on the final content (most important) word. In this recording, the article, **a**, was stressed. Articles are structure words and do not carry important meaning, so they are not stressed. See pages 83-84 in your text.

Correct stress pattern-No, listen again. In this recording, the article, **a**, was stressed. The default stress pattern in English places the greatest stress on the final content (most important) word. In this recorded sentence, the final content word is, **job**, so this is the word that should receive the greatest stress. See pages 83-84 in your text.

Question 2

Read the example sentence and fill in the blanks with all the content and structure words.

Example Sentence: We drove in the dark for six hours.

The content words in this sentence are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The structure words in this sentence are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Feedback:

Great, you got them all! The content words in this sentence are DROVE because it is the main verb, DARK because it is an adjective, SIX because it is a number, and HOURS because it is a noun. Content words carry the most meaning in sentences and include nouns, main verbs, adjective, adverbs, negatives, numbers, and question words. See page 80 of your text.

Oops! You missed a few. The content words in this sentence are DROVE because it is the main verb, DARK because it is an adjective, SIX because it is a number, and HOURS because it is a noun. Content words carry the most meaning in sentences and include nouns, main verbs, adjective, adverbs, negatives, numbers, and question words. See page 80 of your text.

That’s it! The structure words in this sentence are WE because it is a pronoun, IN because it is a preposition, THE because it is an article, and FOR because it is a preposition. Structure words are the little words that grammatically hold a sentence together, but they do not carry the most important meanings. Structure words include pronouns, helping verbs, articles, “To Be” verbs, prepositions and conjunctions. See page 80 of your text.

Gee, try again.

The structure words in this sentence are WE because it is a pronoun, IN because it is a preposition, THE because it is an article, and FOR because it is a preposition. Structure words are the little words that grammatically hold a sentence together, but they do not carry the most important meanings. Structure words include pronouns, helping verbs, articles, “To Be” verbs, prepositions and conjunctions. See page 80 of your text.

Questions 3-7

Match each recorded conversation with the correct stress pattern by writing the letter of the stress pattern on the line next to the recording. You may use a stress pattern more than once.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Highlighting New Information 2. Contrast 3. Disagreement 4. Responding to a Question 5. Emphasizing Agreement 6. Returning a Question | Recording 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_  Recording 2 \_\_\_\_\_\_    Recording 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_      Recording 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_    Recording 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_ |

Feedback

Recording 1 f Returning a Question

In this conversation, the focus or stressed word in the second sentence shifts from FAMILY in the first sentence to YOUR in the second sentence because the person is returning the question asked about his/her family back to the other person. See pages 89-91 in your text.

Recording 2 a Highlighting New Information

In this conversation, the focus or stress word shifts from MONEY in the first sentence to MUCH in the second sentence because this is the new information and MONEY is now the old information. See pages 89-91 in your text.

Recording 3 e Emphasizing Agreement

In this conversation, the focus or stress word shifts from MOVIE to WAS to emphasize that the person agrees with the previous statement. See pages 89-91 in your text.

Recording 4 b Contrast

In this conversation, the focus or stress words in the last sentence are COOK and BUY to show the contrast or difference between cooking or buying dinner. See pages 89-91 in your text.

Recording 5 a Highlighting New Information

In this conversation, the focus or stress word shifts from CAMERA in the first sentence to KIND in the second sentence and DIGITAL in the third sentence because KIND and DIGITAL are the new information and CAMERA is now the old information. See pages 89-91 in your text.

Question 8

What is the default stress pattern in English?

1. Stress the most important words.
2. Stress the final noun.
3. Stress the final content word.
4. Stress only the structure words.

Yes, it is c, stress the final content word. Content words are the most important words in sentences and carry most of the meaning. The final or last content word in a sentence is stressed in the default or most common stress pattern in English.

If you answered a, you have the right idea about stressing the important words, but the most common or default stress pattern is when the last content word is stressed.

If you answered b, the final noun may not be the final content word which is the word to be stressed in the English default stress pattern.

If you answered d, you should review that structure words are only the little words that connect the ideas in a sentence, but they DO NOT carry the meaning. That is why the final content word is stressed in the default stress pattern in English.

Question 9

Why is the correct use of the English stress patterns so important to making your speech comprehensible?

Content Analysis/Answers should include ideas similar to those below.

English is a stress-timed based language. This means that most of what makes English speech understandable is the correct stress in syllables, sentences, and conversations. This use of stress and unstress creates the rhythm of English. If a speaker does not correctly use the stress patterns, his/her speech sounds robotic which makes it difficult to understand and can produce significant misunderstandings. Many other languages do not use these types of stress patterns which makes it particularly challenging for learners of English to accurately produce them to achieve comprehensibility and fluency.